UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Civil Action No.

SOFT TOE

ROBERT F. URBANO, 0 5 1	148	0 MLW	A Monay
v.		RECEIPT #	
AQUA INVESTMENTS, LLC And ITS PRINCIPALS, Defendants.	\$ i	SUMMONS ISSUED_\\\ LOCAL RULE 4.1 WAIVER FORM	<u></u>
DEFENDANTS'	1	MCF ISSUED BY DPTY. CLK. JON PATE (13/05	MAGISTRATE JUDGE 2006

The Defendant hereby removes the within action from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Northeast Housing Court to the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1441 (a), (b), and 1446 (a). As grounds for the removal of this action, the Defendant states as follows:

- The Plaintiff commenced a civil action in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Northeast Housing Court on or about June 27, 2005, captioned Robert F. Urbano
 v. AQUA Investments, LLC and Its Principals.
- Service of the Summons and Complaint was purportedly made on the Defendant on or after June 27, 2005.
- 3. The Plaintiff's Complaint alleges that the Defendant failed to warn the Plaintiff about the existence of lead-based paint within rental premises, make requested repairs to the rental premises, and cure various other alleged defects.

- 4. The Plaintiff claims that the alleged conduct violated the Massachusetts General Laws and the Federal Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 4852d.
- 5. This Court has original jurisdiction over this controversy pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 as the Plaintiff alleges violations of the Laws of the United States.

Attached hereto, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446 (a), are copies of the Summons and Complaint with which the Defendant was served in this matter.

> Respectfully submitted, Aqua Investments, LLC And Its Principals By their attorney,

Dated: July // , 2005

Todd J. Bennett BBO# 643185 Corrigan, Bennett & Belfort, P.C. 404 Main Street, Suite One Wilmington, MA 01887 (978) 988-1544

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Todd J. Bennett, counsel to the Defendants, hereby certify that I served a true copy of the foregoing this date via first-class mail upon Robert F. Urbano, Plaintiff pro se, P.O. Box 164, Rockport, MA 01966.

Todd J. Bennett

Dated: July //, 2005

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS NORTHEAST HOUSING COURT

ROBERT F. URBANO, Plaintiff, **ESSEX: SS**

CASE NO:

VS

COMPLAINT VIOLATIONS OF STATE AND FEDERAL **HOUSING LAWS AND** OF TENANTS RIGHTS

AQUA INVESTMENTS LLC, & IT'S PRINCIPALS, Defendants.

DEMAND JURY TRIAL

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Aqua Investments LLC and Principals were and are doing 5. business at 27 Water St in Wakefield MA 01880 in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 6. On 4/3/05 Plaintiff occupied Unit 8 at 8 Flume Road in Gloucester MA 01930 owned by Defendants/Landlords. Laura Lampas, the on-site representative of Defendants/Landlords, showed Plaintiff the aforesaid apartment (Par. 4 supra). However, she presented no rental documents to be signed and did not refer to any state or federal landlord/tenant law or regulation. She stated solely that Frank Pashuto is the owner of the instant property through Aqua Investments LLC at 27 Water Street in Wakefield, MA 01880.
- 7. When Plaintiff/Tenant complained of conditions materially affecting his peace, health and enjoyment of the apartment, i.e. no

water in the kitchen, no telephone jack for computers, no telephone etc., Mr. Pashuto sent workmen or arrived with them to remedy the foregoing defects of water and jack. However, Mr. Pashuto was unaware of no telephone dial tone or of any additional problem. As a real estate broker Plaintiff advised Mr. Pashuto that upon listing rental property any competent real estate broker will inspect the property in order to determine whether everything for the comfort and enjoyment of the prospective tenant is functional. Subsequently, the broker advises every prospective tenant prior to signing a lease or taking occupancy of all relevant state and federal law and regulation governing rentals and has them sign relevant documents, i.e. lead paint notification.

8. It is critical for a real estate broker to have a working telephone at home for calls and computers since customers customarily call brokers at home and brokers call customers from home. Mr. Pashuto was and is aware that Plaintiff/Tenant was and is associated

- 9. Mr. Pashuto nor anyone associated with him has ever referred to any rental law or regulation except to say that a lease would be signed. In more than 30 days Plaintiff/Tenant has not seen a lease nor any other rental form mandated by State and Federal law and regulation. The only information received was Mr. Pashuto's cell phone number and his Company address to forward rental checks.
- 10. Plaintiff/Tenant advised Mr. Pashuto by letter first-class postage prepaid (missing date 5/23/05) (Ex. 1-2) that his painters had painted over and plugged TV jack and an outlet, the thermostat functions only at 80 degrees and that the air conditioner electric cord does not reach any outlet - weather in June 2005 has at times been unseasonably hot for an ill tenant. No written reply or repair.
- 11. None of the Defendants/Landlords mentioned nuisances

associated with the instant apartment and at the time of day of Plaintiff/Tenant's inspection in the late afternoon none of the nuisances were apparent: A day care center is immediately under the apartment window with 10-15 children in full cry, The tenant in the apartment above has a dog left at home alone during the day that often scratches and barks loudly and continuously or at any time including late at night and it sounds as though the said tenant has installed a bowling alley. Further, Plaintiff/Tenant has been without access to television since Defendants/Landlords have not corrected the TV jack plugged by their painters despite promise to do so. The building, apparently without insulation, makes every sound clear. (see Chapter 13 of the City of Gloucester ordinances) Plaintiff did not confront Defendants of these nuisances after Defendant Pashuto stated that he did not want any more letters from Plaintiff following prior letters. (Exs 1-3)

12. By first-class postage prepaid in a letter (Ex. 3) Plaintiff/Tenant

suggested to Defendants/Landlords that in view of numerous problems in the apartment and illegal rental practices, that the first month's rent be forgiven or that Plaintiff/Tenant would give thirty days notice and would use the last-month rent deposit for June 2005 rent. Further, that due to Defendants/Landlords "* * *failure to comply with legal terms for renting my apartment* * *" forcing Plaintiff/Tenant to consider vacating the apartment "* * * I expect to be reimbursed for moving expenses." (Ex. 3) Plaintiff/Tenant has not had a written response to these nor any complaint or demand. 13. Defendants/Landlords' cavalier disregard for tenants' rights contrary to state and federal law and regulation and failure to give a written response to written complaints and demands has given Plaintiff/Tenant no choice but to remain in the apartment and bring the instant civil action on his and incidentally all other tenants behalf. Defendants/Landlords are totally ignorant of state and

federal law and regulation and determined not to be apprised of

same. (Ex. 3) As the foregoing paragraphs make apparent, quiet enjoyment of said apartment is impossible.

STATEMENT OF LAW

- 15. Each and all of the acts of Defendants/Landlords, their officers, agents, employees and servants were executed under color and pretense of statutes, ordinances, regulations, customs and usages of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and of the United States of America.
- 16. Defendants/Landlords had ample opportunity prior to legal action to remedy through Plaintiff/Tenant or any other advisor their ignorance of state and federal law and regulation pertaining to rentals. (Ex. 3) They chose to wallow in their ignorance. 940 CMR 3.17(l)(b) & 3.17(lXi) Whelihan v.Markowski, 37 Mass. App. Ct. 209, 638 NE2d 927 (1994)
- 17. Defendants/Landlords did not notify (Ex. 4-5) Plaintiff/Tenant

of the possible presence of lead paint in a property constructed in 1970 (Ex. 10) or before 1978, mandating lead paint notification by state law MGL Part I Title XVI c. 111 sec. 197A, Part III Title III c. 239 sec. 8A and federal law Title X sec. 1018 42 USC sec. 4852d.. (see also Exs 4-5 & 12-13) Neither was Plaintiff/Tenant provided with a Tenant Certification Form. (Ex. 11) Lead Paint law applies to all tenants "* * *whether or not they have a child under six or not.* * *" (Ex. 4-5 emphasis supplied) Adults suffer lead paint poisoning. (Ex. 7) Plaintiff is suffering kidney failure possibly due to lead paint poisoning in his prior residence - now in Federal Court. Defendants/Landlords provided no information regarding lead paint. Non-complying landlords penalties can be severe. (Exs 8-9)

18. Contrary to MGL c. 186 sec. 14 & the Massachusetts Attorney General states in 940 CMR 3.17 sec.1(a)(i) that it is an unfair or deceptive act that Defendants/Landlords did not furnish on

occupancy cold water, proper heat, functioning air conditioner or telephone service etc. (see Pars 7-11 supra) but:

> "* * * required by law or by express or implied terms of any contract or lease or tenancy at will to furnish* * *at any time when the same is necessary to the proper or customary use of such building or part thereof* * *or any lessor or landlord who directly or indirectly interferes with the quiet enjoyment of any residential premises by the occupant* * *shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than three hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for not more than six months. Any person who commits any act in violation of this section shall also be liable for actual and consequential damages or three months rent, whichever is greater* * *all of which may be applied in setoff to or in recoupment against any claim for rent owed or owing.* * *" (emphasis supplied) See Lawrence v. Osuagwu, et al. 57 Mass. App. Ct. 60 (2002) & Part III Title III c. 239 sec. 8A.

The Defendants/Landlords are violating the implied warranty of habitability. Doe v. New Bedford Hous. Authy., 417 Mass. 273. 281 (1994) & Javins v. First Natl. Realty Corp., 428 F2d 1071, 1074 (DC Cir.), cert. denied, 400 US 925(1970) Further, there is no legal

requirement in Massachusetts for a tenant to place withheld rent in any form of escrow account.

19. According to Houseman's Housing Code Checklist Sanitary Code Section: (bostonabcd,org/houseman/checklist.htm and see Housing Code Checklist chapter II:

> "Under the state sanitary code the following violations are considered conditions that may "materially endanger" the health of you and your family. If you or the local board of health has notified your landlord of these violations, you may legally withold (sic) all or a portion of your rent."

"Conditions That Must Be Fixed Within 5 Days: Any defect in electrical, plumbing or heating system that violates "generally accepted standards' but does not create an immediate hazard. 410.75(o)(3)

"The owner shall provide* * *unless and to the extent the occupant is required to provide fuel for the operation of the (hot water) facilities under written letting agreement.* * *" 410.190

"Heating equipment must be maintained in good working order. 410.351

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION DEFENDANTS HAVE VIOLATED EVERY STATE AND FEDERAL LAW AND REGULATION

- 23. The allegations contained in prior paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference, the same as though pleaded in full.
- Despite being apprised of their total failure to follow 24. landlord/tenant state and federal law and regulation as to rentals, Defendants/Landlords have willfully ignored all advice.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION DEFENDANTS INTENTIONALLY INFLICTED EXTREME EMOTIONAL DISTRESS ON PLAINTIFF/TENANT AND ENDANGERED HIS HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- 25. The allegations contained in prior paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference, the same as though pleaded in full.
- 26. The negligent and willful failure of Defendants/Landlords to correct conditions in the said apartment either prior to occupancy or subsequent thereto, contrary to all state and federal landlord/tenant law, has caused and is causing Plaintiff/Tenant extreme physical and

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION PLAINTIFF/TENANT HAS BEEN AND IS DEPRIVED OF PEACEFUL ENJOYMENT OF HIS APARTMENT

- 27. The allegations contained in prior paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference, the same as though pleaded in full.
- 28. Defendants/Landlords failed to advise of nuisances, i.e. lack of insulation making every sound from other apartments clear and disturbing, a day-care center directly under the window and a dog in the above apartment that is left alone during the weekdays barking and scratching continuously day and night, etc. MGL 93A applies.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION PLAINTIFF/TENANT HAS PAID FOR AN APARTMENT THAT DOES NOT CONFORM TO ACCEPTED STANDARDS AND HE SHOULD BE REIMBURSED

29. The allegations contained in prior paragraphs are incorporated

herein by reference, the same as though pleaded in full.

30. Defendants/Landlords have rented an apartment that does not comply with any accepted standards of habitability under state or federal law and regulation. Consequently, Plaintiff/Tenant has not received the least satisfaction for his expenditures and should be reimbursed for two months rent and subsequent months if the conditions are not corrected, as well as moving expense. Plaintiff/Tenant has paid for heat and electricity although Defendants /Landlords, lacking a written agreement (Par. 19), must pay for heat and electricity.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

31. Because of Defendants/Landlords willful violations of state and federal landlord/tenant law, Plaintiff/Tenant at 83 years of age suffering from kidney failure and treatment - has been afflicted with great pain of mind and body and other damages. Therefore,

"Landlord must provide and pay for heat unless there is a written agreement requiring tenants to pay for heat, 410,201& 410,255"

- 20. The Defendants/Landlords failed to comply with the Attorney General's General Regulations as to an unfair or deceptive act 940 CMR 3.17 sec 3(b) or any provision of MGL c. 186 sec. 15B(d)&(2a) regulating last-month rent deposit nor did they provide receipts for first or last month or any other receipt. Consequently, Plaintiff assumed that the deposit was Last-Month but it could be a security deposit? In any event Defendants /Landlords are subject to three times the amount of the last-month rent deposit, see Par 18 supra & Casterholz v, Caira, 21 Mass. App. Ct. 758, 490 NE 2d 494 (1986)
- 21. Plaintiff/Tenant advised Defendants/Landlords (Ex. 1-3 & Par. 11 supra & see 940CMR 3.17 sec. 1) of conditions materially affecting the tenant's peaceful enjoyment of said apartment. Plaintiff/Tenant suggested that the first month's rent be forgiven,

assuming incorrectly that the onerous conditions would be fixed, and if forced to move again due to said conditions, he should be reimbursed for moving expense. No written response. Since the aforementioned defects have not been fixed. Plaintiff contends that both first and second month's rent and moving expense - if Plaintiff/Tenant is forced to move - be reimbursed to Plaintiff. MGL c. 239 Sec. 8A. Pursuant to MGL Part I Title XVI c. 111 sec. 127L it has been more than five days since Plaintiff/Tenant complained (Ex, 3) of the violations. Plaintiff/Tenant contends that the first and second month's rent have illegally collected and will apply the illegal rent to subsequent months of occupancy if conditions are corrected. 22. Defendants/Landlords have precluded Plaintiff-Tenant's peaceful enjoyment of the apartment. Defendants/Landlords have caused stress as well as endangerment as to the health and wellbeing of an 83-year-old tenant suffering from kidney failure.

Plaintiff seeks compensatory and punitive damages and all statutory or regulatory pecuniary awards to which he is entitled as well as expenses (i.e. see par. 18,19&21 etc. supra) and triple damages pursuant to MGL c. 93A sec. 12.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

32. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury of all issues so triable in this cause of action.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. Urbano- Pro Se

PO Box 164 Rockport MA 01966

Dated 6/27/05

978-526-1519 or 978-283-1519

06/2005 14:49 FAX 978 988 1545

CBB

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Plaintiff hereby certifies that on 6/27/05 he caused a true and accurate copy of the above document to be served by first-class mail postage prepaid upon Defendants at their place of business, Aqua Investments LLC at 27 Water Street in Wakefield MA 01880.

Robert & Ulli

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Civil Action No.

ROBERT F. URBANO, Plaintiff))					
v.))					
AQUA INVESTMENTS, LLC And ITS PRINCIPALS, Defendants.))))					
AFFIDAVIT OF FILING OF CE	RTIFIED COPY OF NOTICE OF REMOVAL					
, .	d say that on July 11, 2005, I filed a certified copy e matter with the Clerk of the Massachusetts					
Subscribed and sworn under the pains and penalties of perjury this //day of July, 2005:						
< "						
Todd J. Bennett						

1

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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SJS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS	DEFENDANTS					
ROBERT F. URBANO		AQUA INVESTI ITS PRINCIPAL	MENTS, LLC and S					
(b) County of Residence	of First Listed Plaintiff Essex	County of Residence of	of First Listed Defendant					
	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES	ONLY)				
			NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Number)	Attorneys (If Known)						
			orrigan, Bennett & Belfo gton, MA 01887; BBO#					
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF P		(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff				
U.S. Government Plaintiff	☑ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		TF DEF 1 1 Incorporated or Pr of Business In Thi					
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity	Citizen of Another State	1 2					
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT	I (Place an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES				
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☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act	☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 362 Personal Injury ☐ 315 Airplane Product		☐ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking				
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☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	Liability Liability 340 Marine PERSONAL PROPER	CTY 660 Occupational Safety/Health	☐ 840 Trademark	☐ 480 Consumer Credit ☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV				
(Excl. Veterans)	☐ 345 Marine Product ☐ 370 Other Fraud	☐ 690 Other		☐ 810 Selective Service				
IJ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability 371 Truth in Lending 350 Motor Vehicle 380 Other Personal	LABOR ☐ 710 Fair Labor Standards	SOCIAL SECURITY B61 HIA (1395ff)	☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange				
160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage	Act	☐ 862 Black Lung (923)	☐ 875 Customer Challenge				
☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	Product Liability 385 Property Damag 360 Other Personal Product Liability		☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) ☐ 864 SSID Title XV!	12 USC 3410 ■ 890 Other Statutory Actions				
196 Franchise	Injury	& Disclosure Act	☐ 865 RSI (405(g))	☐ 891 Agricultural Acts				
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220 Foreclosure	☐ 442 Employment Sentence	791 Empl. Ret. luc.	or Defendant)	☐ 894 Energy Allocation Act				
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land	Accommodations Habeas Corpus: 530 General	Security Act	26 USC 7609	☐ 895 Freedom of Information Act				
245 Tort Product Liability	☐ 444 Welfare ☐ 535 Death Penalty		20 000. 7007	☐ 900Appeal of Fee Determination				
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO		aint notification statute.						
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23		CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:				
VIII. RELATED CASI	(See instructions):							
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